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Clean Grain Notes

for Cooperators in Clean Grain Program



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Spring Meetings Add Impetus to Clean Grain Work: Grain sanitation problems and educational methods for speeding up Clean Grain work highlighted the many State and regional grain sanitation and marketing meetings held over the country this spring. Latest in this series was the May 24 meeting of the Pacific Northwest Grain Sanitation Committee at Walla Walla, Washington, held in conjunction with the regular spring meeting of the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association.

And in April, regional conferences of State extension grain marketing specialists were held at Fort Collins, Colo., April 18-20 for winter wheat States, and at Minneapolis and Duluth, April 25-27 for spring wheat States.

Reporting on these conferences, and accompanying State visits, Federal Extension Service grain marketing specialist Tom Hall states, "I am particularly impressed with the amount and effectiveness of clean grain work being carried on. Each State reported continuous and intensive programs and the use of many different and, in some cases, unique educational methods."

One of these unique methods, used successfully by Kansas during their series of Statewide grain grading schools in March, was to have participants draw an enlarged outline of each of the State's 13 most common stored-grain insects. Purpose was to teach ready identification of the insects. Drawings were made on work sheets which listed the common distinguishing characteristics of the insects. Color enlargements of the insects made these characteristics more pronounced.

Some 985 producers, county grain dealers, county elevator operators, and ASC bin supervisors and inspectors attended the meetings.

Note Carefully: The Food and Drug Administration calls attention to the wording of the new regulation governing insect and rodent contamination which goes into effect after July 1. Under the new tolerance, wheat in interstate transit will be subject to seizure if it contains one or more rodent pellets per pint, or one percent or more by weight insect-damaged kernels.

The Food and Drug Administration procedure is to examine one pint from each of five probings for rodent pellets. A composite sample of 50 grams is used to determine insect damage. We erred in previously stating the new standards allowed no more than one rodent pellet per pint or no more than one percent insect-damaged kernels per pint.

New Method of Determining Weevil Infestation Reported by AMS: Research conducted by the Manhattan, Kansas, Stored Grain Insect Laboratory of the Agricultural Marketing Service offers promise of an easier method of determining weevil infestation in wheat. Although several methods of detecting weevil infestation are available to trained technicians, states the report, AMS-101, they are not generally suitable for use by commercial grain handlers.

The new method makes use of the earlier developed flotation process for separating infested from noninfested kernels. Key to this method is the immersion of wheat in solutions of controlled specific gravity. The lighter weight of infested kernels separates them from the heavier sound kernels. Field tests of this method are now being made at county elevators to determine its performance under actual operating conditions. For additional information on this method write to: Stored-Product Insect Section, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Ohio and Kansas Quality Wheat Programs Pay Off: The value of aggressive educational work is clearly seen in Ohio and Kansas reports on results of Quality Wheat Programs in the two States. Ohio extension marketing specialist L. E. Folsom says definite improvement in grain quality during the past few years is a matter of record. As evidence of this, he cites these figures: Percent of wheat received at Ohio Inspection Points which graded No. 1 and No. 2 from 1949 to 53 (Later data is not yet available) 1949, 26.5%; 1950, 58.9%; 1951, 42%; 1952, 86.8%; 1953, 95.3%. Percent of wheat placed in special grades for smut, weevil, garlic, and mixed: 1949, 13.9%; 1950, 13.3%; 1951, 6.9%; 1952, 5.9%; 1953, 5.3%.

Increased consciousness on the part of producers of all the factors determining quality is the chief reason for this progress, believes Folsom. In achieving this, Ohio farmers have had the support of intensive and effective educational programs. Typical of the type of educational work being carried on is the 1956 schedule of press releases, radio programs, and magazine articles planned by the Ohio Quality Wheat Committee. The schedule of 17 Statewide press releases, 8 radio programs and 8 magazine articles concentrates two press releases, and one radio program and magazine article on each quality factor, released at the most timely date.

Kansas reports its 1955 Quality Wheat and Clean Grain program saved some 1,296,000 bushels of wheat valued at \$648,310. This accomplishment is credited to team effort. Taking the lead in this effort were the Kansas Extension Service, the Kansas Grain and Feed Dealers Association, and the Kansas Wheat Improvement Association.

Activities included preparation, publishing and distribution of circulars, leaflets, posters, news articles; radio and television programs; 20 grain elevator sanitation demonstrations; and 54 meetings.

Suggested Spring Activities: With harvest just around the corner in Southern grain producing States...renewed emphasis should be placed on harvesting and storage practices that assure clean grain. These include:

1. Cleaning, spraying, and repair of storage bins to protect newly stored grains from insect, rodent, bird, and weather damage.
2. Repair and cleaning of combines.
3. Clipping weedy areas and borders of grain fields, particularly seed fields, shortly before harvest to lessen weed seed contamination.

May Issue of Pest Control Magazine Highlights Clean Grain: The whole area of grain storage and sanitation, and progress and problems in the Clean Grain program is reported in detail in the May issue of Pest Control Magazine. You'll find the many articles well worth your reading.

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